

2027 Unified Planning Work Program



August 2026

metro council.org

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)



Purpose

- Describes all the Council's MPO transportation-related planning activities for the upcoming year paid for by federal funds
- Reflects the transportation planning priorities and goals expressed in the Transportation Policy Plan
- Addresses issues/concerns expressed by our state and local planning partners
- Describes planning work categories and identifies expected products, including consultant planning work
- Serves as an application for federal transportation planning funding

Regional Work Program



Purpose

The Regional Work Program contains transportation planning tasks and studies that are fully regionally funded

These studies and tasks are not eligible for federal funds and/or are activities required under state legislation

In 2027 the Regional Work Program includes:

- Active Transportation solicitation
- Aviation planning activities
- Travel Demand Management program
- Electric vehicle-related studies
- Community Considerations and Equity Framework Tool training

Planning Activity Categories

Organized by five major activities:

- A. Planning and Programming Process
- B. Modal System Planning
- C. Long-Range System Planning
- D. Travel Research and Modeling
- E. Short-Range Planning and Performance Monitoring

Each activity includes:

- Staff time/cost
- Consultant expenditures
- Tasks and purpose
- Major products

Activity A. Planning & Programming Processes		2027 Total
Consultant Studies		\$400,000
Review of the 2026 Regional Solicitation		\$200,000
Community Assessment & Engagement Guide		\$100,000
Outreach & Engagement Services for Transportation Studies		\$100,000
Operating Costs		\$2,822,187
Staff Weeks		429 Weeks
Salary & Benefit Cost		\$1,467,844
Overhead & Expenses		\$1,345,343
Activity A Subtotal		\$3,222,187

Ongoing Studies & Major Projects – Began Prior to 2026

Federally Funded Studies

- Metropolitan Highway System Harms, Impacts, and Mitigation Priorities Study
- Transportation Research Program
- Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan

Federally Funded Studies cont.

- Evaluation of Forecast Accuracy & Robustness (COMPLETE)
- Outreach and Engagement for Transportation Studies Master Contract
- Regional Sidewalk Dataset Study (Phase 1)
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Demand Estimation Tool

Regionally Funded Studies

- Midtown Greenway Bicycle & Pedestrian Trail Expansion Planning Project (COMPLETE)
- Regional Aviation System Planning Consultant
- Community Considerations Criteria & Measures

Studies Starting in 2026 and Carrying into 2027



Federally Funded Studies

- Community Assessment and Engagement Guide
- Managed Lane Vision and System Study, Phase 4
- Integrating TDM into Highway Planning Processes
- Existing Freeway Interchange Improvement and Modernization Study
- Safer Connections to Transit
- Complete Streets Local Implementation Guide
- 2050 Comprehensive Plan Update Tools and Guides
- Travel Model Updates
- Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) Rural Connections

Studies Starting in 2026 and Carrying into 2027 ⁽²⁾



Regionally Funded Studies

- Electric Vehicle Public Engagement
- Electric Vehicle City Support
- Regional Travel Demand Management Program Naming and Branding
- Community Considerations Workshops and Scoring

Studies Expected to Start in 2027



- Review of the 2026 Regional Solicitation
- Twin Cities Transportation Resiliency Improvement Plan
- Safety Plan Updates and Implementation
- Electric Vehicle Curbside Charging Implementation Cohort
- Regional Sidewalk Dataset Study (Phase 2)

Draft 2027 UPWP Budget

Task	Staff Weeks	Salary & Benefit Cost	Consultant Study Cost	Overhead & Expenses	Total Cost
A. Planning & Programming Process	429	\$1,476,844	\$400,000	\$1,345,343	\$3,222,187
B. Modal System Planning	475	\$1,529,194	\$1,185,000	\$1,225,008	\$3,939,202
C. Long-Range System Planning	345	\$1,157,330	\$100,000	\$929,321	\$2,186,651
D. Research & Travel Forecasting	332	\$854,467	\$290,000	\$689,610	\$1,834,077
E. Short-Range Planning & Monitoring	137	\$371,643	\$10,000	\$298,129	\$679,772
Eligible for Federal Funding	1,716	\$5,389,478	\$1,985,000	\$4,487,411	\$11,861,889

Public Comment Period

June 12 – July 17

- Public comments
 - Web traffic: 222 hits
 - GovDelivery: 182 clicks
 - 1 commenter submitted 7 comments on several topics:
 - Street and intersection design
 - Traffic operations
 - Snow removal
 - Transit
 - Parking
 - Public involvement



Next Steps

Process

- ~~June 11:~~ TAC Planning action
- ~~June 12:~~ Release for public comment
- ~~July 17:~~ Public comment period closes
- ~~August 5:~~ TAG
- **August 19:** TAB
- **August 24:** Transportation Committee
- **September 9:** Met Council adoption

Recommended motion

That the Transportation Advisory Board:

- Recommend adoption of the 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).





Frank Alarcon

Manager, Multimodal Transportation Planning
frank.alarcon@metc.state.mn.us

Amy Vennewitz

Director, Transportation Planning
amy.vennewitz@metc.state.mn.us

